



MSU PA STUDENTS GAIN HANDS ON EXPERIENCE IN ANATOMY LAB

PAS Times

Volume 9, No. 1



IN THIS ISSUE

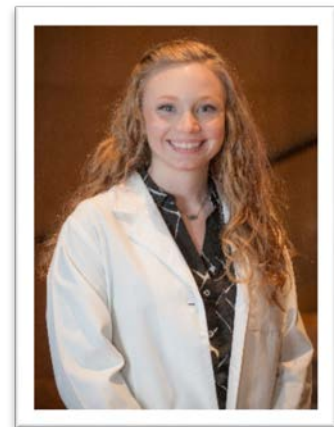


A Note from the Department Head

2017 proved to be an eventful year for our department and PA program as this newsletter will attest. The highlights include the class of 2016 achieving a 100% pass rate on the national certification exam (they are all now well on their way towards wealth, fame and general happiness), Tracy Cleveland earned her doctoral degree from the University of Missouri (go Dr. Cleveland!), LeAnne Snow joined the program as our Admissions Coordinator/Academic Advisor, and Sharon Giboney announced her intention to retire in the spring of 2018 to have more time with her

family and the many charities and civic-minded organizations she is affiliated with. We have begun a search for a new faculty member so if you are thinking how exciting it would be to help mold the next generation of PAs, please consider applying. In addition, we had the "joy" of preparing a self-study report for our accrediting agency (ARC-PA) which was completed in early November. We concluded that we are doing a creditable job of educating PAs. Continuing in this vein, if you have any ideas as to how we can improve our program, please let us know. Likewise, many thanks to all of you who helped us this past year fulfill our mission. Please read on about what the year of 2017 brought to us and how we responded.

-Steven T. Dodge, MD



PA student raises funds for MSU Care
See page 3 for details.



Clinical Coordinator, Sharon Giboney, announces retirement, page 6.

Class of 2017

On December 15, 2017, Missouri State University conferred 32 new graduates with Master of Science degrees in Physician Assistant Studies. These graduates are the 17th class for the MSU PA program bringing the total number of graduate PAs to 427. The Class of 2017 will be joining the 115,000 practicing physician assistants across the US. Congratulations Class of 2017!

New graduates listed in alphabetical order: Jami Ruckman Bates, Allison Blacksher, Tim C. Brazeal, Hannah Eagleburger, Sara M. Eyler, Alyssa Farrell, William Brock Frazier, Cody Giedd, Rachel Hufnagel, Dixie Johnston, Karissa Fox Koscheski, Jason Lewis, Blake A. Martin, McKenzie Matlock, Megan McCole, Joel Meyer, Michelle Meystedt, Nicole K. Nathe, Christian B. Nguyen, Erin Payne, Mary Heather

Pein, Jordan Phenicie, Joshua Reeves, Priya Rengaraj, Claire Roarty, Abby Jennifer Rogers, Ashley Shaw, Jennifer Shipley, Kevin M. Stokes, Sarah Stutz, Jesse Thompson, and Tarah Trokey.



Congratulations to Dr. Tracy Cleveland!

Missouri State University Physician Assistant Studies Department wishes to congratulate Tracy Cleveland on completing a Doctor of Education (EdD) in Educational Leadership from the University of Missouri. Didactic year students along with PAS faculty and staff celebrated Dr. Cleveland's degree completion with cake, ice cream and gifts. We are all so proud of Dr. Tracy Cleveland!

PA student creates campaign to raise funds for MSU Care

Dixie Johnston, Class of 2017, harnessed the power of social media to set up a crowdfunding campaign that raised funds for MSU Care in Fall 2017.

MSU Care, located on the first floor of the O'Reilly Clinical Health Sciences Center, provides free healthcare to low-income, uninsured adults ages 18-64 who are not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid. The clinic provides prescription medications, lab studies, x-rays, and mental health services all in one location, and at no charge to the patient.

In addition to medical services, MSU Care also provides non-medical items that reduce some of the barriers to healthcare for the uninsured population. This includes bus passes and personal hygiene products such as soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, and much more. These items are only available through donations.

By the end of the campaign, Dixie was able to raise \$940 for MSU Care. Although the crowdfunding campaign is now closed, those interested in making a donation can still do so via this link:

https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/865/donations/new?donation_type=general.

MSU Care is a community partner for the MSU PA program that provides valuable learning opportunities for our students. We are proud of Dixie's efforts to support the underserved!

Class Leaderboard		
The Class Leaderboard reflects giving from Alumni, Students, Parents		
Class Year	Donors	Dollars
	1	\$50
1992	1	\$100
1994	1	\$50
2003	1	\$50
2007	1	\$100
2009	1	\$100
2012	2	\$60
2014	5	\$145
2017	1	\$25
2018		

Left: donor leaderboard by graduation year; Right: MSU Care, located on the first floor of the O'Reilly Clinical Health Sciences Center



Class of 2018

The MSU PA program celebrated the Class of 2018's successful completion of their first year in the program with the White Coat Ceremony, held on December 9th.

During the ceremony, students received white coats marking their transition from the academic study of medicine to the practice of it in upcoming clinical rotations. The ceremony included words of wisdom from the 2018 class president, Paige Hemphill, and vice president, Courtney Smith.

Students completed the ceremony by reciting the physician assistant oath before they celebrated with family and friends at a reception.



Reciting the Physician Assistant Professional Oath

Welcome Class of 2019!



Admissions Update

In January 2017, the PAS department welcomed LeAnne Snow as the program's new Admissions Coordinator and Academic Advisor. She comes with a wealth of experience in admissions and advising at the collegiate level.



Open House Sessions

Every spring we offer three open house information sessions. Participants meet the faculty, hear information about the application/selection process, learn about the PA profession and have an opportunity to participate in a group Q&A session with current PA students. Dates for open house sessions are available at this link:

<http://www.missouristate.edu/pas/OpenHouse.htm>.

100% PANCE PASS RATE

Congratulations to the Class of 2016 for their 100% first time pass rate on the national PA certification examination (PANCE)!



Class of 2019 at New Student Orientation held on January 11, 2018.

After a highly selective admission process, the MSU PA program welcomed its newest class of students on January 11, 2018. These 30 students hail from 9 states including Wisconsin, Illinois, Colorado, Florida, Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas and Missouri.

They represent a wide array of undergraduate and graduate institutions: Missouri State, Syracuse, University of Central Missouri, Tulane, Missouri Southern State, Evangel, Colorado State, University of Texas-Arlington, University of West Florida, The Ohio State University, Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois University, Drury, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Creighton

University, Missouri University of Science & Technology, Saint Louis University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Class of 2019 brings a variety of health care experience to the program, averaging 8,600 hours of paid, direct patient health care experience prior to admission. The

average age is 28 years old. These students averaged an overall GPA of 3.5 and an average GRE score of 304.

Interest in a career as a PA remains high as indicated by 374 applications the MSU PA program received for the 2017-18 admissions cycle; a 5% increase from the previous year.

The new admissions cycle begins **May 1, 2018** and closes **July 15, 2018**, for individuals interested in applying for the class beginning in January 2019.

Prospective students should contact LeAnne Snow with any questions regarding admission or review of transcripts: LSnow@MissouriState.edu, (417) 836-4479.

Faculty Spotlight: Sharon Giboney, MSN, APRN-BC, DNP(c)



After serving the MSU PA program for many years, Sharon Giboney, Clinical Coordinator and Clinical Assistant Professor has announced her intention to retire in the spring of 2018.

Mrs. Giboney first began her association with the Missouri State PA program as a preceptor and was later invited to join the faculty; most recently serving as the department's Clinical Coordinator. She holds an RN from Burge School of Nursing, BSN from Drury University, WHNP from UT Southwestern, MSN from Drexel University, and a DNP(c) from Maryville University.

We asked Mrs. Giboney why she decided to transition to academia and teach in the Physician Assistant Program:

"When I was in clinical practice in a local office of 5 physicians, I was their first nurse practitioner. I had my own panel of patients. I started serving as a preceptor for both NP and PA students. The NP education has changed a great deal since I was in nursing and NP school. I fell in love with PA students because the didactic education totally prepared them for their clinical experiences. I was approached by a faculty member at that time asking me to come join them. I said "no" I was a clinical person. Then the time came that I wanted to change from a clinical practice to an academic career. I called Dr. Canales and made an appointment for me to come in to talk. I was offered a position and that started my career in academia. I miss my patients but love the PA students."

We hope retirement allows Mrs. Giboney more time with her family as well as her volunteer work. Her many contributions to the success of our program are greatly appreciated.

Alumni Spotlight: Megan Huff, MS, PA-C

Megan Huff is a practicing clinician in Springfield, Missouri. She graduated with a BS in Dietetics in 2002 and an MS in Physician Assistant Studies in 2004 from Missouri State University (formerly Southwest Missouri State University). Mrs. Huff's clinical experience includes general surgery, urgent care and family practice. She joined Steeplechase Family Practice in 2008. Mrs. Huff is a guest lecturer for the PA program also serving on the PA department's advisory committee and interview board.

What advice would you give didactic year or clinical year students?

"Work hard and stay focused on your long term goals. Be sure to find balance between life and work/school."

What are your expectations from the students you precept?

"I expect that students show up with a good attitude and willingness to learn something new every day. Don't be afraid of making mistakes because it's the best way that you can learn."

What have you learned from volunteering as a preceptor?

"I have learned patience and the value of paying it forward. I love watching students grow and achieve more



than they thought was possible. It is an honor to be a part of that."

Is there any additional information you would like to share?

"I believe in treating patients and coworkers as family. If you do so with love, compassion and respect you won't be steered wrong."



Alumni in the News

Dustin Bartlett, a 2004 graduate, has been nationally recognized for earning a specialty credential, Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ), from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). Dustin is the only PA in Missouri to earn a CAQ in Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery. Congratulations, Dustin

CALLING ALL ALUMNI:

We want to spotlight you on our Facebook page and future newsletters! Current and aspiring PA students would like to read about your experiences and successes including any awards, leadership, unique practice styles or inspiring patient stories. Please contact LeAnne Snow for additional information, LSnow@MissouriState.edu.

Share Your Knowledge-Be a Preceptor!

Clinical preceptors are a vital component in the education of future physician assistants. Practitioners who welcome students into their practices and share their clinical knowledge and model appropriate care of patients can be assured that their contribution is recognized and valued both by the students they precept and by the PA program faculty. We urge all practicing clinicians to consider becoming a preceptor to a PA student.

For more information, please visit our website (<https://www.missouristate.edu/pas/preceptor.htm>) or contact Kimberly Cook, MS, PA-C: KimCook@MissouriState.edu or 417-836-4477.



Congratulations to our very own, Kimberly Cook, who will be taking on the position of Clinical Coordinator! Prior to joining the faculty in June of 2014, she practiced primarily in pediatrics and family medicine for almost 10 years. Mrs. Cook is an Assistant Professor for the MSU Department of Physician Assistant Studies who holds both a BS in Cell and Molecular Biology and an MS in Physician Assistant Studies from Missouri State University.

When asked what she enjoys about working as a PA educator, she noted that she most enjoys the frequent interaction she has with the students in all of the different courses. She loves observing them learn about so many different things. "I absolutely love walking through lab at the end of the first semester when the students are reciting their physical exam script by memory and they have fine-tuned their physical exam techniques. Watching the level of knowledge and skill they acquire in 2 years is really amazing." She really enjoys the clinical aspect of her students' educational process as well. She has enjoyed matching up preceptors with different personalities and different areas of interest with students with similar qualities and pursuits. She remarks that she feels very blessed by this job. "It is such a privilege to work for these students and get to be a part of their education and lives."



Stay connected with the MSU PA program by sending us your updated contact information, PhysicianAsstStudies@missouristate.edu

Connect with other MSU PA alumni by joining the Facebook group: Missouri State University PA Alumni/Student.

Fulfilling Missouri State's Public Affairs Mission

Missouri State University strives to educate students to be global citizen scholars committed to a mission in public affairs. The public affairs mission defines a primary way in which an education from Missouri State is different from that of other universities and one way by which we educate our students to imagine the future. The MSU PA Department prepares successful students who excel academically by incorporating the pillars of MSU's public affairs mission: ethical leadership, cultural competence and community engagement.

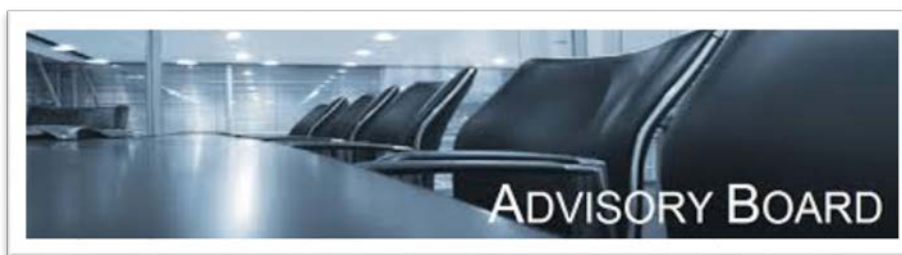
Ethical Leadership



May 2017- MSU PA students participated in the annual student medical Challenge Bowl at the AAPA Conference held in Las Vegas. Team members included first-year students Priya Rengaraj, Michelle Meystedt, Erin Payne and Karissa Fox.

October 2017- Faculty members, Dr. Roberto Canales, Mrs. Kimberly Cook and Dr. Tracy Cleveland, represented the MSU PA program during the PAEA Education Forum held in Denver, CO. In addition to participating in the Forum and involvement in the presentations, the faculty were recognized for their leadership contributions as chairs on PAEA's Exam Development Board: Roberto Canales-Internal Medicine & Family Medicine End of Rotation, Chair; Tracy Cleveland-Emergency Medicine & General Surgery End of Rotation Chair.



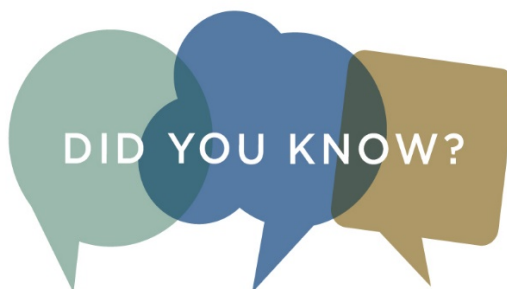


November 2017-The MSU PA Program Advisory Board held its annual meeting on Thursday, November 9, 2017. Thirteen Board members met with the faculty to discuss challenges facing the Program such as fewer preceptor sites and strategies to address these challenges. Board members also shared their thoughts on PA practice related issues such as optimal team practice. **If you have an interest in serving on this board and are able to attend an annual on-campus meeting, please contact the Program at 417-836-6151 and ask for Roberto Canales or LeAnne Snow.**

Point of Care Ultrasound Training New to Curriculum



In November, Karalee Laney, RDMS, demonstrated to students the basics of ultrasound and ultrasound technique using our three point of care ultrasound machines. This was followed by Chip Lange, an ER physician assistant, who provided a workshop to students on POCUS (point of care ultrasound) examinations. Students were able to learn and perform an ocular exam, DVT screening and the eFAST. A special thank-you to these two individuals for their help and assistance with this training.



The MSU PA Department launched a Facebook page in Spring 2017! Stay up to date on department news by following our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MissouriStatePAProgram/>.

Community Engagement



April 2017-PA students volunteered for Walk MS: Springfield 2017. Walk MS raises awareness of multiple sclerosis and the hundreds of thousands it affects each year. It also raises money for research toward finding a cure. Thanks to Arielle Campbell, Abby Rogers, Laura Nyo Shein, Riley White, Allison Blacksher and Jennifer Shipley for volunteering!



July 2017-Mercy Hospital Aurora and the Missouri State University Physician Assistant Program volunteered to provide sports physicals to students in the greater Aurora community. The free physicals were available for students from grades 3 to 12, including Mighty Mites, junior high and high school athletes. Faculty members present included MSU PAS Department Head Dr. Steven Dodge, Assistant Professor Kim Cook, and Clinical Assistant Professor Sharon Giboney, who coordinated students for the event.





October 2017-

The annual Healthcare Symposium, presented by the MSU PA students, was our kickoff event to PA Week 2017. The Symposium offers undergraduate students an opportunity to explore potential careers in healthcare as they hear information from a variety of professions. Over 100 undergraduate students were in attendance at this year's symposium.

We are grateful to our panelists: Kara Baker, MLS (ASCP), Microbiologist; Rick Boaz, NRP, Paramedic; Brandon Burk, MS, RRT-ACCS,

Respiratory Therapy; Dana Crisp, PTA, Physical Therapy

Assistant; Bobby Daniels, FP-C, Flight Paramedic; Dr. Monika Feeny, MSU

Program Director of Nurse Anesthesia; Dr. Tommy Trent, Board Certified ER Physician; and our very own Dr. Roberto Canales, PA-C, MSU Associate Program Director of Physician Assistant Studies.



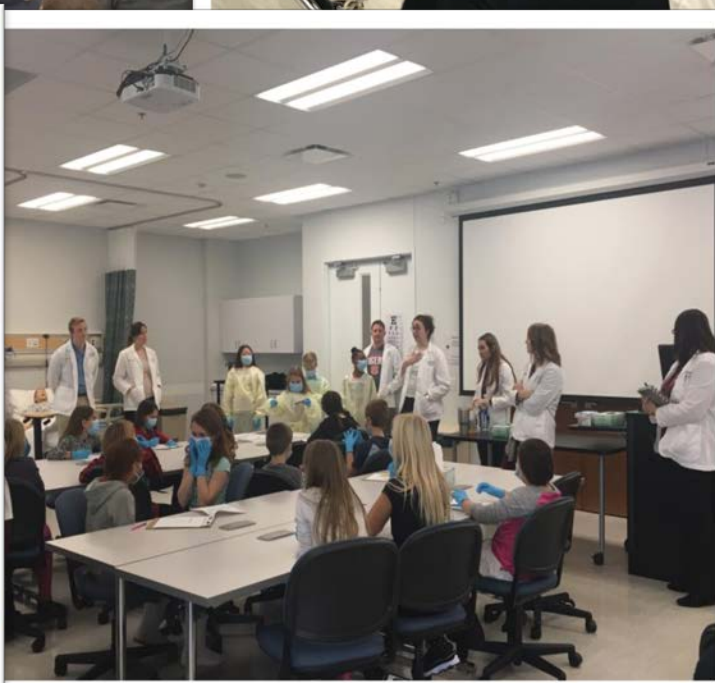
October 2017- As a close to PA week, MSU PA students and the MSU Pre-PA Society volunteered at the Care to Learn/Panther Run, a nonprofit organization that funds health, hunger and hygiene needs for students.

Additional information about the Care to Learn organization can be found here: <https://www.panther-run.com/care-to-learn>.

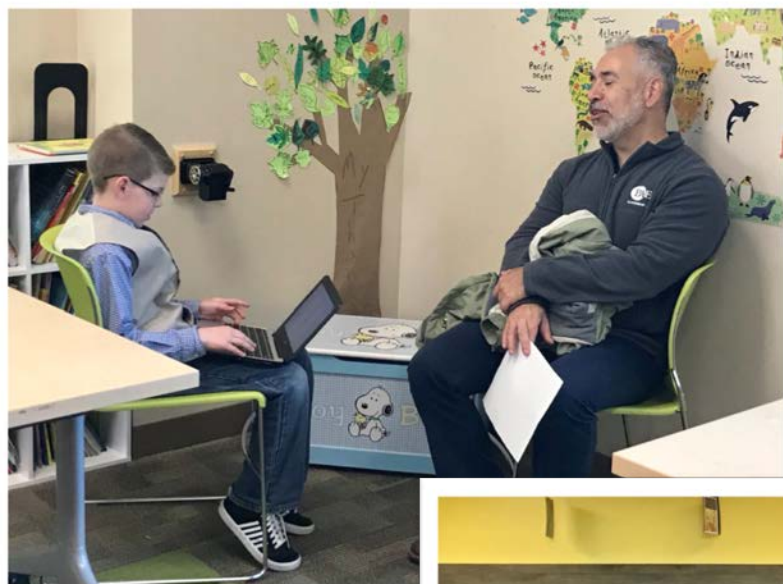




November 2017-Students from Sherwood Elementary visited the MSU PA program to learn how to set up a mock clinic. Didactic year students and faculty shared information about different types of health care providers, medical tools, disease prevention and health promotion.



December 2017- Following their workshop with MSU PA students, Sherwood Elementary students set up a mock clinic putting to use their knowledge of body systems and healthy choices. MSU PA faculty and students participated as patients.



Student Spotlights



Blake Martin, Clinical Year Student and Class of 2017 President

Hometown:
Ozark, MO

Previous Health Care experience:
CNA, ER Tech and Medical Scribe

Interesting fact about Blake:
He played in the Junior College World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado and placed 4th in the nation!

Undergraduate major/institution:
Cell and Molecular Biology from Missouri State University

Why did you decide to become a Physician Assistant?

"Medicine has always been my passion, and the PA profession provides the lifestyle I want within that passion. Healthcare has always been a team approach, and I have the ability to take part in that team at a very high level while maintaining the freedom of moving in and out of specialties as my interests grow and shift."

Area of medicine you wish to practice:
Surgery

Why did you choose the MSU Physician Assistant Studies program?

"The #1 reason is being so close to home. Also, the program has an ongoing reputation for going above and beyond for their students. It makes a difference when your faculty is supporting you every step of the way."

What's the best advice you have received from a MSU Physician Assistant Studies professor?

"Trust the process. There were many days as a first year student that I never thought I would be prepared after graduation, let alone for clinicals. However, I now see how this program prepares you as well as any to thrive in the world of medicine as a PA."

Do you have any advice for prospective PA students?

"If this is what you really want to do, devote a little bit of your time every day to making that dream a reality. If you don't, know that someone else will. Putting in that effort every day will make you a great prospect, a successful student, and a highly valuable PA upon graduation."

Jordan Phenicie, Clinical Year Student and Class of 2017 Vice President

Hometown:
Sikeston, MO

Previous Health Care experience:
Athletic Trainer for Arkansas State Baseball and then for Lemak Sports Medicine

Interesting fact about Jordan:
His first child, Kade, was born 2 months before he started the PA program.

Undergraduate major/institution:
MS in Exercise Science from Arkansas State; BS in Sports Medicine Athletic Training with a minor in BMS from MSU

Why did you decide to become a Physician Assistant?

"I worked with PA's as an ATC and saw how involved they were with patient care. I wanted to do more and be more involved with patients than I was as an ATC. I enjoy hands on care and wanted to work towards a surgical and procedural role."

Area of medicine you wish to practice:
Orthopedics

Why did you choose the MSU Physician Assistant Studies program?

"I was a Bear as an undergrad and love the school and Springfield. I also have friends who went through the PAS program and brag about it. The department's statistics are outstanding and the faculty truly cares. I also really like the professor:student ratio and accessibility of the PAS staff. There was really no other program I wanted to attend."

What's the best advice you have received from a MSU Physician Assistant Studies professor?

"Trust the process."

Do you have any advice for prospective PA students?

"'Trust the process.' When I started thinking about PA school, it seemed like a daunting task. From day one, talking to the academic advisor, they set a straight path and were very forward with what to expect and what to do. When starting the program it was the same story. I always knew what was coming and what to expect. You have to put in the work but 'Trust the process' and trust those leading you through it."





Paige Hemphill, Didactic Year Student and Class of 2018 President

Hometown:

Ozark, MO

Previous Health Care experience:

Medical Scribe, Therapy Technician and Restorative Technician

Interesting fact about Paige:

She was contracted to play semi-professional soccer for a season in Vasteras, Sweden after she graduated college.

Undergraduate major/institution:

Pre-Medical Biology degree with a minor in Spanish from Southwest Baptist University

Why did you decide to become a Physician Assistant?

"I have always had a passion for medicine and a desire to serve people. As a PA, I can incorporate my passions into a profession. Healthcare is multi-disciplined team approach and a PA has an integral role in direct patient care. This allows me to be directly involved in the treatment and management of the patient, which is important to me. I have the ability to make a difference in a patient's life and partner with them to achieve the healthiest lifestyle possible. In my opinion, that is one of the greatest job satisfactions a person can have."

Why did you choose the MSU Physician Assistant Studies program?

"The one thing that stood out to me about the MSU PA program was the faculty and facilities. Essentially, what you learn will be the same in any PA program, but the faculty and facilities set programs a part. The faculty members have a variety of different backgrounds and experiences, which offer diversity to this program. Most importantly, the faculty are so personable and go above and beyond to help their students succeed. The facilities available to the PA Program are fantastic. Our building is connected to the MSU Care Clinic, which provides healthcare to an underserved population and this gives our program the opportunity to partner with the clinic. As students, it is incorporated into our curriculum to go and serve in this clinic several times, which offers a unique experience to our program."

What's the best advice you have received from a MSU Physician Assistant Studies professor?

"The one thing you will hear the most is "trust the system"; every professor will say this. Going through the program as a 1st year student, it can be difficult to see the big picture, but the program has not failed me yet. Even though I feel unprepared, the curriculum has held true and adequately prepared for each step in the curriculum. I look forward to my clinical year where I can apply all the things I have learned so far. "

Do you have any advice for prospective PA students?

"This journey will be one of the hardest things you do, but it is worth every minute of the struggles and challenges you face. If this is what you truly want to do, then you must give it your very best and nothing less, or you will fall short. This journey takes everything you have. I do not say this to intimidate anyone, but rather prepare you for what lies ahead on your journey to becoming a PA. Anything that is worthwhile is never easy. My advice to you is if you don't get in the first time, it is okay. Don't view this as a failure, but rather a test to determine if this is something you want. Secondly, make time to meet with the advisor to work on your application, making that extra effort shows that you are serious about becoming a PA and you are willing to do anything it takes to get in. Lastly, volunteer. These experiences set you apart from other applicants and the more experiences you have, the better it reflects on you. These experiences are not just crucial for you to get in school, but also to make you a better well rounded person and you can't take a class to teach that. In closing, I wish everyone the best of luck in their pursuit to becoming a PA and encourage you to keep fighting for this dream despite any adversity you may face. It is worth it."

**Courtney Smith, Clinical Year Student and Class of 2018
Vice President****Hometown:**

St. Louis, MO

Previous Health Care experience:

Phlebotomy, ER tech and Patient Throughput Manager at CoxHealth

Interesting fact about Courtney:

"I can't tolerate touching cotton balls without gloves on!"

Undergraduate major/institution:

BS in Cell and Molecular Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Missouri State University

**Why did you decide to become a Physician Assistant?**

"By the time I was in college I knew I wanted a career in medicine. Luckily, I stumbled across someone in the PA profession while I was shadowing a cardio-thoracic surgeon during my sophomore year of college. I researched the profession more and I knew I found something that truly spoke to me."

Area of medicine you wish to practice:

Surgery or Emergency Medicine

Why did you choose the MSU Physician Assistant Studies program?

"I was blessed to meet many amazing people and role models when I moved to Springfield and started my education at Missouri State. I am so proud to be a part of this University. MSU and its faculty have always provided me with some amazing opportunities, and when I met with those in charge of the PA program I knew it would be no different. I couldn't imagine finishing up my education anywhere else."

What's the best advice you have received from a MSU Physician Assistant Studies professor?

"In medicine it is so difficult to not feel intimidated and inadequate in your knowledge base. The best advice I have gotten is to trust yourself, know your strengths, know your weaknesses, and always 'screw up in a crowd.' "

Do you have any advice for prospective PA students?

"There is nothing easy about PA school. Getting in is stressful and can be a lengthy process in itself. School may be one of the most trying things you will ever be faced with. However, the end of the road means that you finally have your dream job. If you think you are interested in being a PA, the best advice I can give is to get out in the medical community and see what the job is all about! Shadow, make contacts, and forge relationships. If you know this is what you want to do, do it! Don't let any small setbacks keep you from succeeding."

Missouri State

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Giving

Donations to the Department of Physician Assistant Studies enable us to continue meeting our mission of educating highly competent physician assistant graduates to practice primary care medicine in the context of team-delivered health care in a rapidly evolving health care arena. Contribute in a way that fits your needs and helps shape the future of Missouri State. Your gift – no matter its size – supports our program.

Find out more by visiting the Missouri State Foundations' webpage:

<https://webapps.missouristate.edu/giving/pledge2.aspx?major=CHHS&sub=PN>

Alumni

The MSU Department of Physician Assistant Studies' proudest assets are our 427 graduates. The most recent alumni survey revealed that most MSU PA alumni are employed on a full-time basis in clinical practice. They work in a variety of office and hospital based settings, practicing in 18 states. **The largest** percentage (29%) of MSU graduate PAs work in surgery. **Twenty-seven** percent of MSU PA graduates work in rural areas.

Nationally, 21.5% of PAs are employed in surgery and its subspecialties and only 15% of PAs work in rural areas. *

*Data from AAPA National Survey, 2016, and the NCCPA Statistical Profile of Certified Physician Assistants, 2016.

